



7 YEARS
A POW
IN HANOI!

In the Presence of Mine Enemies

THE TRUE STORY
OF A U.S. PILOT
AND HIS WIFE!

35¢

YOU WILL WRITE
A CONFESSION OR
YOU WILL DIE !!!

WHAT
IS YOUR
CHOICE?

HERE
IT IS!

DEATH

Lee
Harley



AMERICA WAITED 7 YEARS FOR THIS STORY!

AND IT'S **TRUE!** THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS!

**WAR!
SUFFERING!
TORTURE!**



AND THEN :

**PEACE!
VICTORY!
FREEDOM!**



THIS DRAMATIC
TRUE STORY

DIDN'T "JUST HAPPEN."

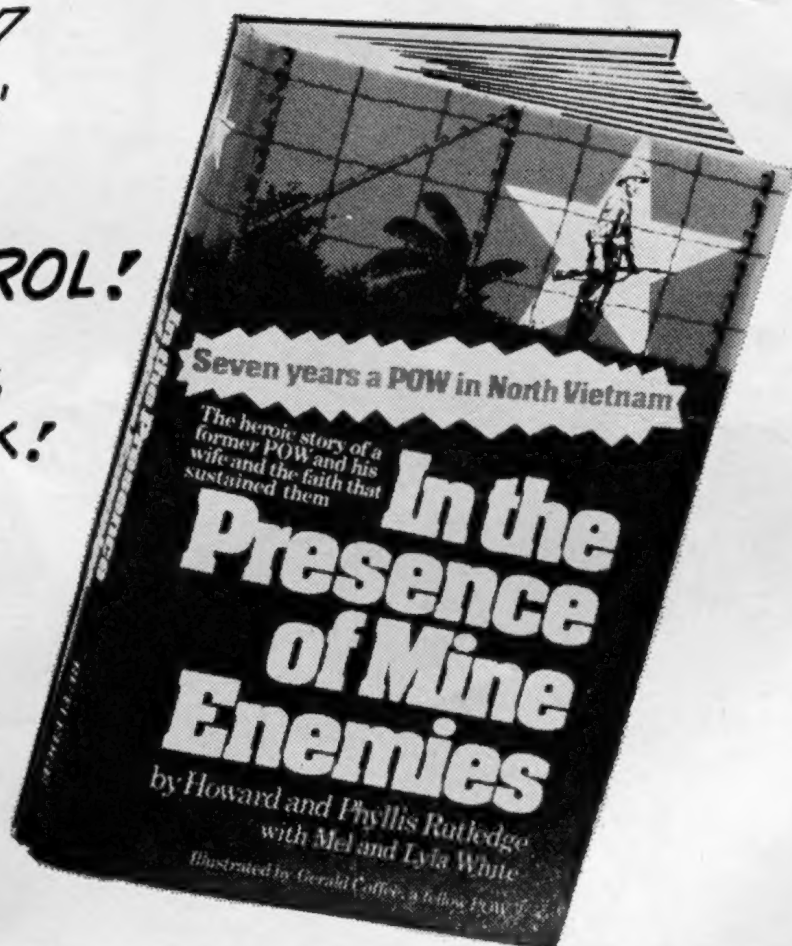
PRAYER AND FAITH
PLAYED A PART!

GOD WAS IN CONTROL!

YOU CAN READ **ALL**
THE EXCITING DETAILS
IN THE COMPLETE BOOK!

\$4.95

ILLUSTRATED



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1965 ---
PHYLLIS RUTLEDGE AND HER
CHILDREN LEAVE FOR CHURCH ---

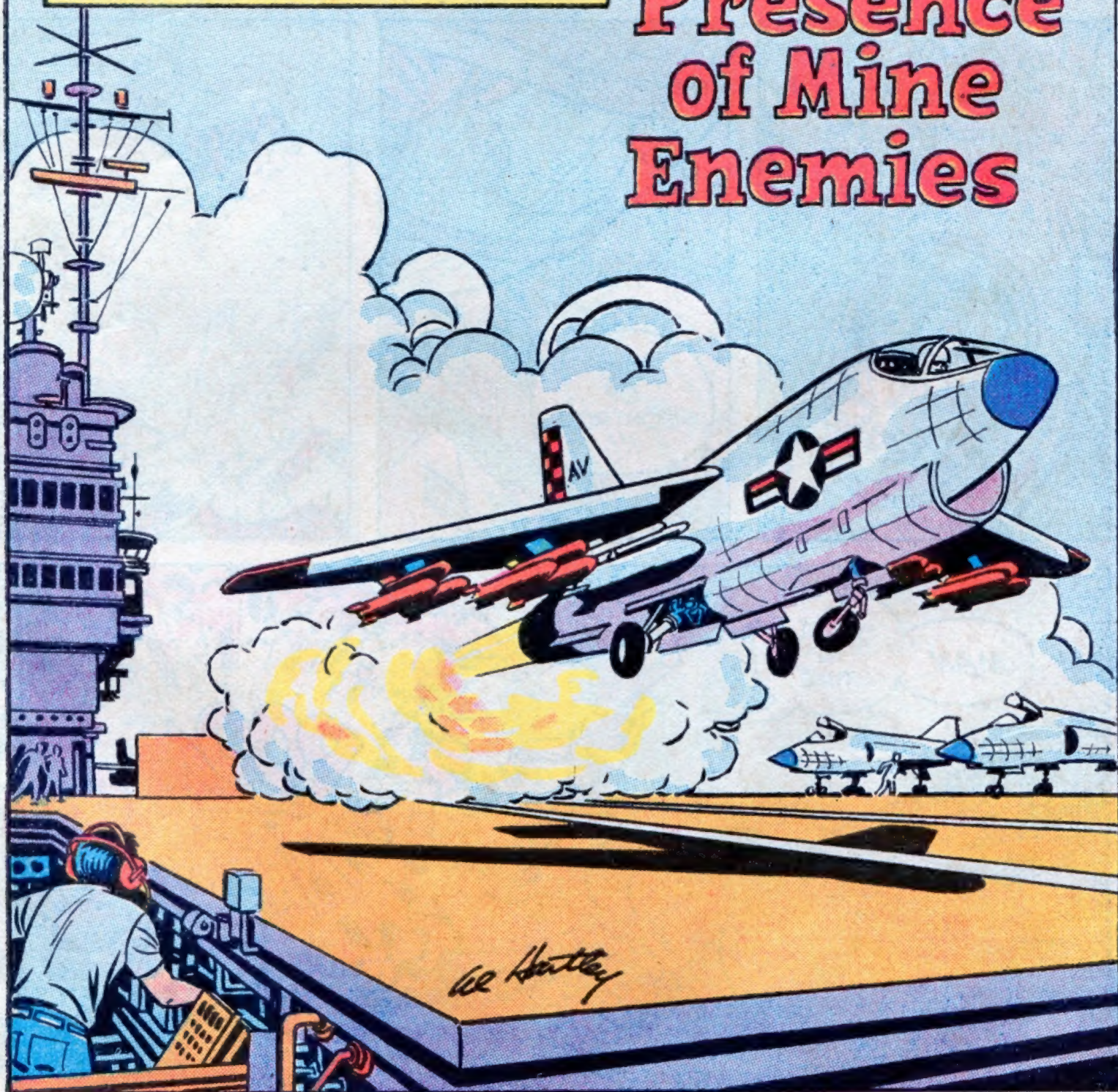
HURRY!

WE'LL
BE
LATE!

AND HALF WAY AROUND THE
WORLD, HER HUSBAND HOWARD
LEAVES ---

ON A DIFFERENT
KIND OF MISSION !

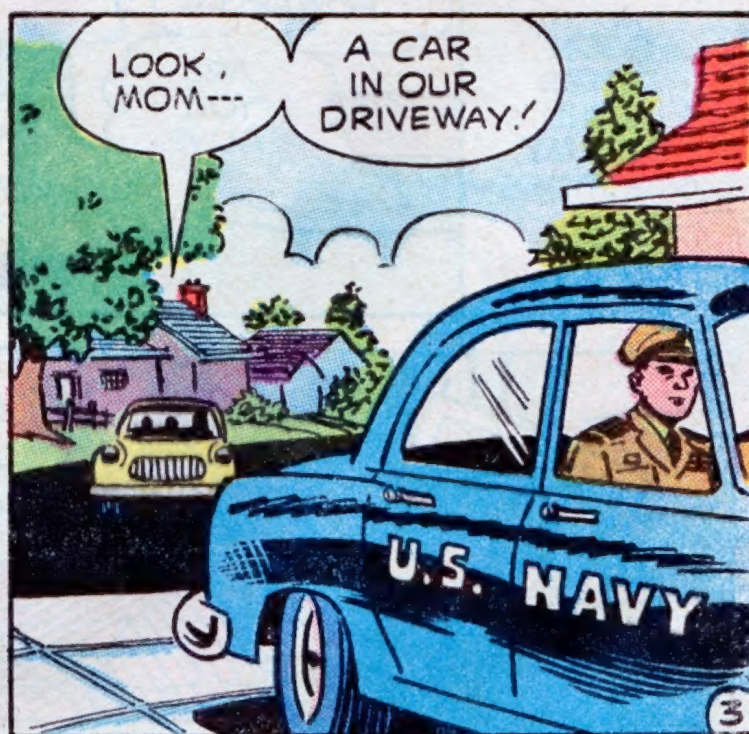
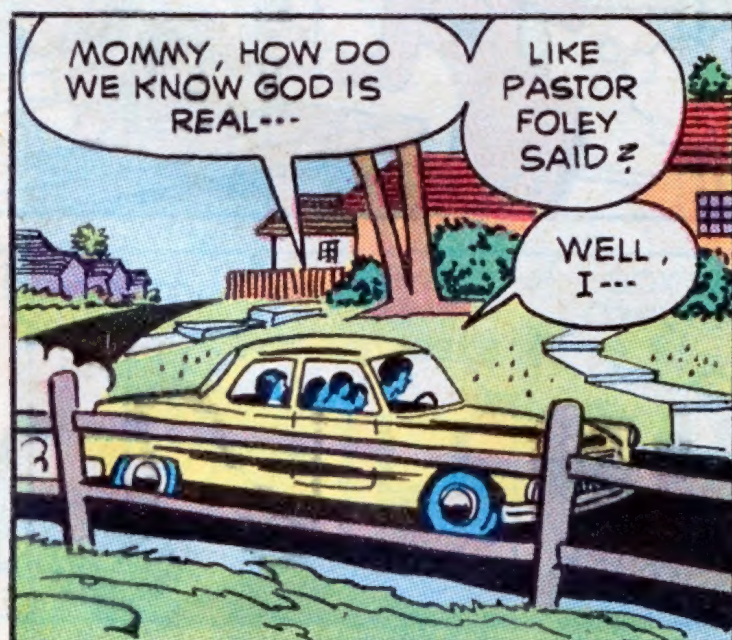
In the Presence of Mine Enemies

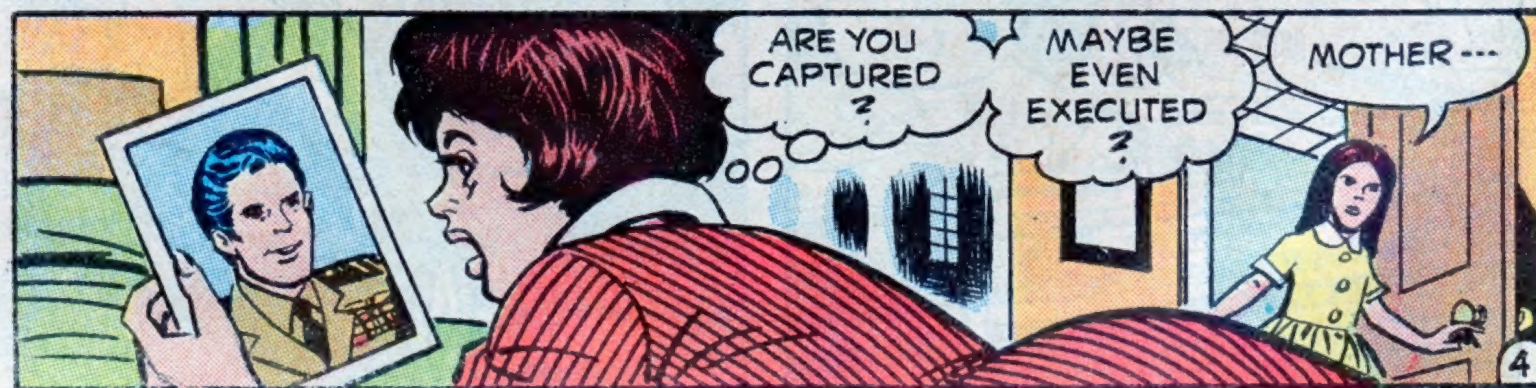
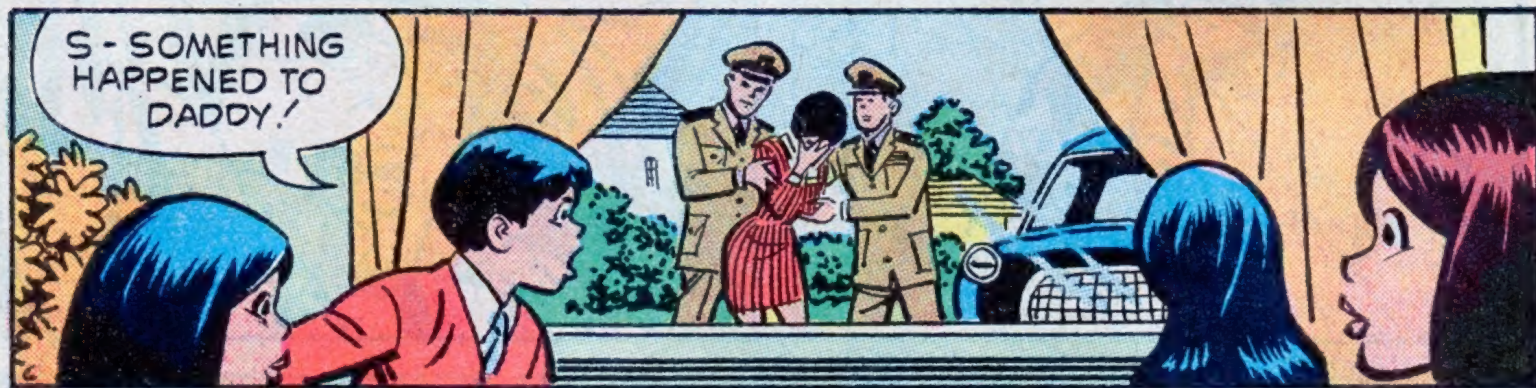


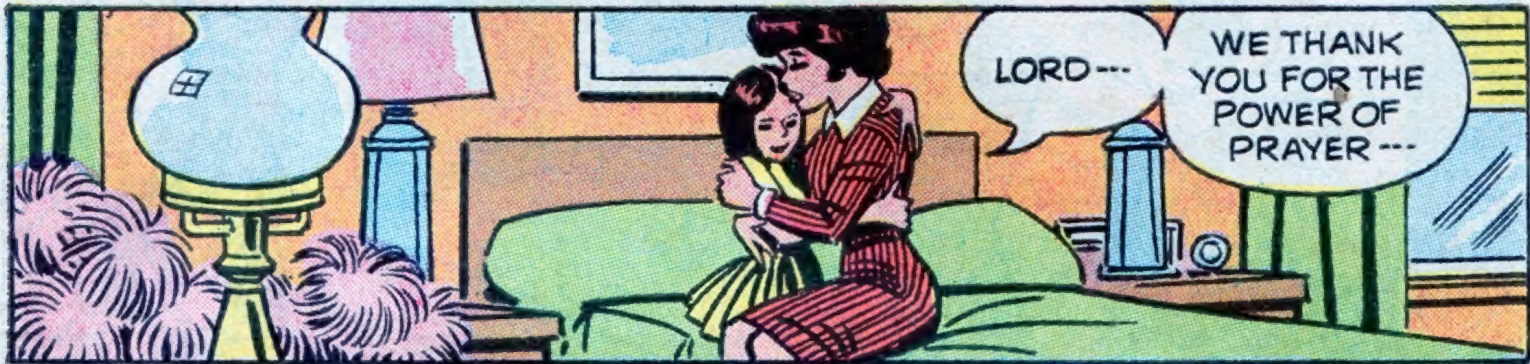




BACK IN CALIFORNIA, PHYLLIS RUTLEDGE RETURNS FROM CHURCH---





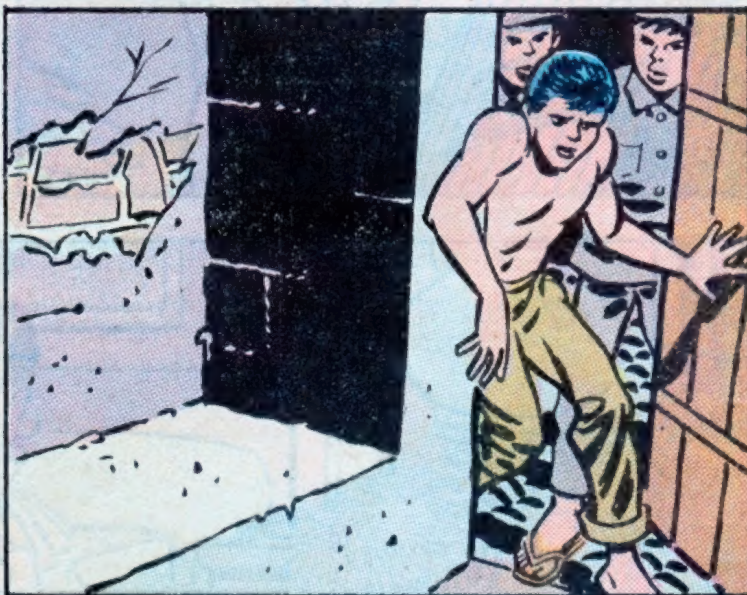


A
NEW
"GUEST"
ARRIVES
AT THE
HANOI
HILTON !

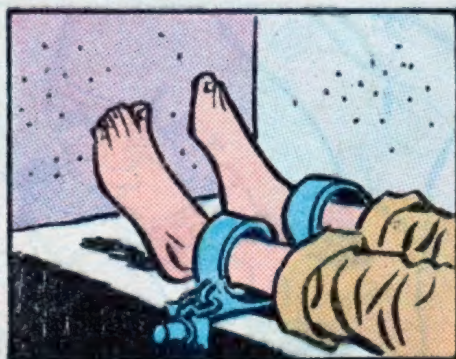


AND IS ESCORTED TO HIS ROOM---

3 X 6 FEET --- 120° HEAT ---
NO AIR CONDITIONER !



AND NO
DANGER
OF
FALLING
OUT OF
THE CEMENT
BED !



ROOM
SERVICE
FEATURES
THE WORLD'S
MOST EXOTIC
MENU ---
SEAWEED
SOUP AND
SEWER
GREENS !!!

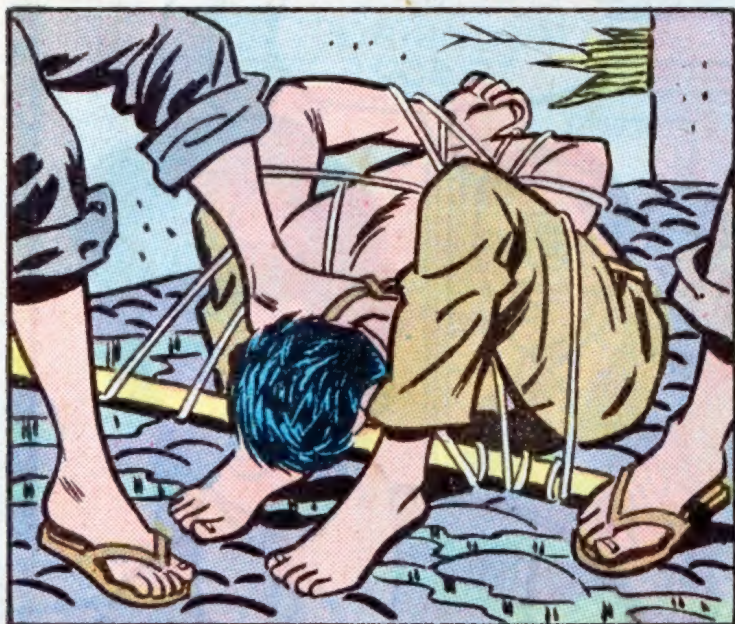


AND THE SOCIAL DIRECTOR
IS A REAL EAGER BEAVER !

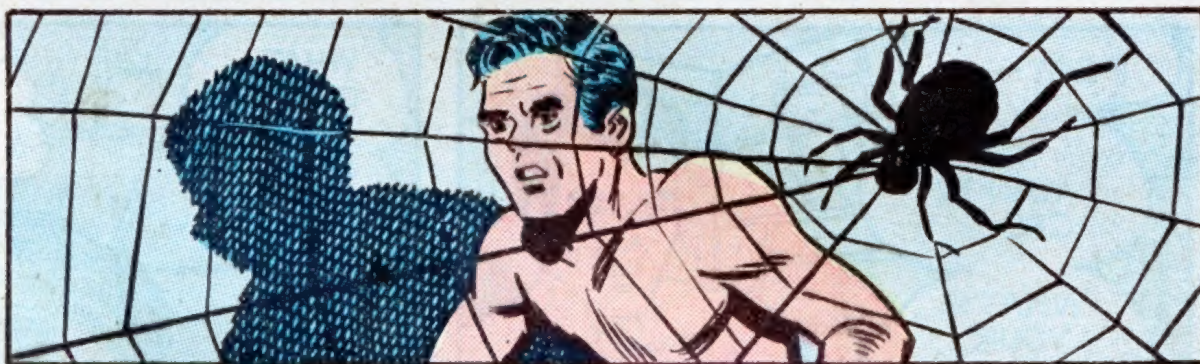


EVERYTHING WAS DESIGNED TO
BREAK OUR SPIRIT ---

--- TO MAKE US TOOLS OF ENEMY
PROPAGANDA !



THE
BRUTALITY
OF
TORTURE
AND
SOLITARY
IS
DEVASTATING
!!!



AT FIRST YOU PANIC !
YOU WANT TO CRY OUT !

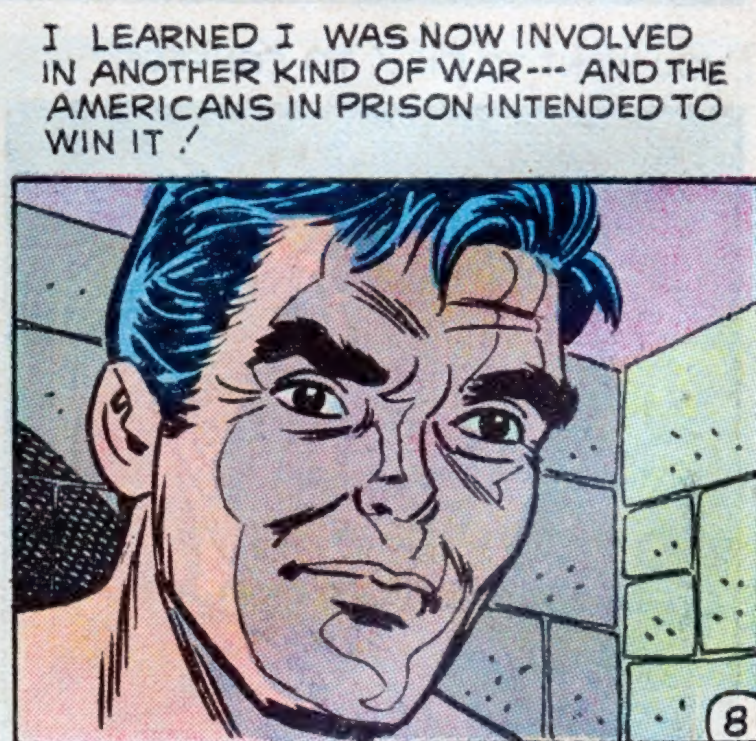


YOU WANT TO DIE ! TO CONFESS !

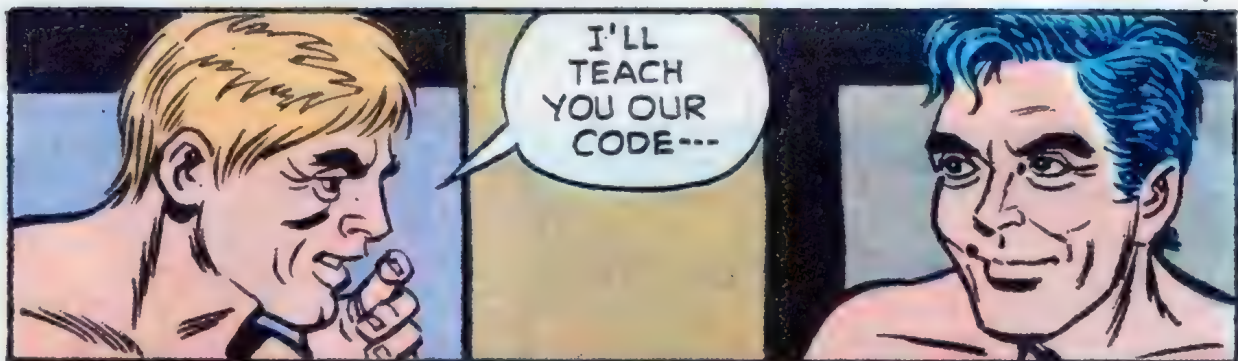


TO DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF THAT
FOUL EVER-SHRINKING WORLD !





WE
WERE
ORGANIZED
TO
RESIST
THE
ENEMY!



I
MEMORIZED
THE NAME
AND SERIAL
NUMBER OF
EVERY
AMERICAN
PRISONER!

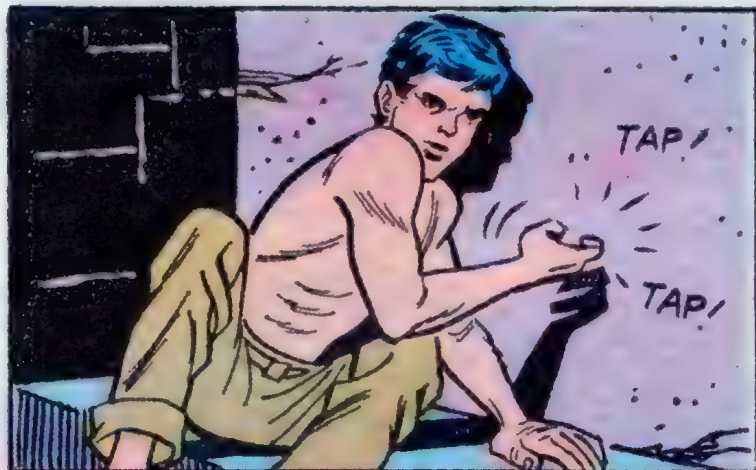


I ALSO
LEARNED
THAT
AMERICANS
WERE
FORBIDDEN
TO
COMMUNICATE---



THE ENEMY KNEW IF HE COULD
ISOLATE A MAN ---MAKE HIM FEEL
CUT OFF --- FORGOTTEN --- HE COULD
EASILY BREAK HIS SPIRIT!

BUT IN SPITE OF PUNISHMENT AND ALL
KINDS OF OBSTACLES, AMERICANS
THROUGHOUT THE PRISON WERE IN
ALMOST CONSTANT CONTACT !!!



WE
NEEDED
EACH
OTHER!

AND SO WE
COMMUNICATED
IN EVERY
POSSIBLE WAY!

TAPPING OUT OUR
CODE BY FINGER ---
ELBOW --- SANDAL ---
BROOM ---

EVEN A
COUGH COULD
CARRY A
MESSAGE !!!



THE EASIEST THING WAS TO GIVE UP - BUT OUR COUNTRY NEVER TAUGHT US THAT.!



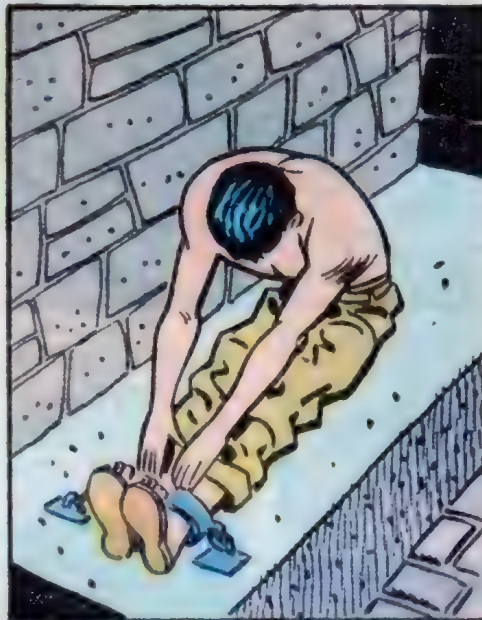
SO WE FOUGHT TO STAY ALIVE AND FIGHT BACK.!



THE FOOD WAS NAUSEATING--- BUT IT WAS ALL WE HAD SO WE ATE IT.!



WE EXERCISED DAILY, EVERY WAY WE COULD.!



WE EXERCISED OUR MINDS, TOO. THAT'S WHERE THE MAIN BATTLE TOOK PLACE.!



I BUILT FIVE HOUSES THAT WAY.!



AND I HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO DISCOVER THE IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTION---

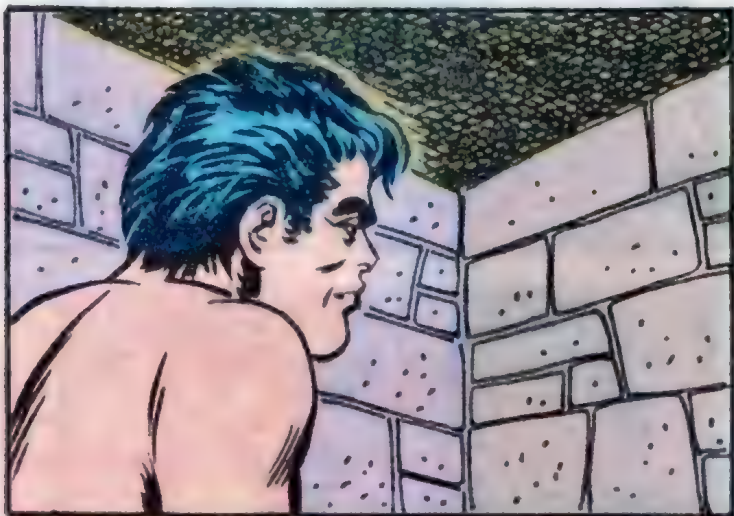


WHEN
I WAS
FREE,
I WAS
CONSTANTLY
DEALING
WITH
THE
WORLD
OUTSIDE !



SUDDENLY THAT WAS GONE AND
I WAS FORCED TO DEAL WITH
THE WORLD *INSIDE* !

BUT I HAD COMPLETELY NEGLECTED
THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF MY
LIFE !



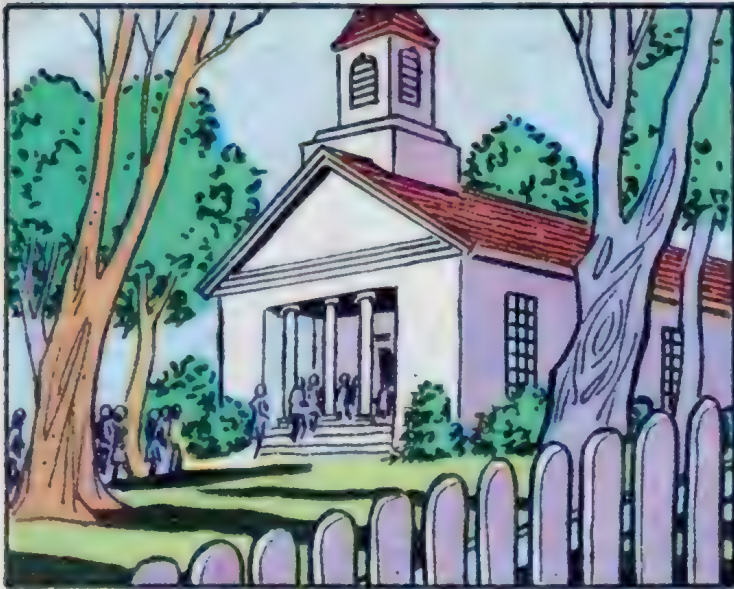
IT'S TAKEN
THIS PRISON TO
SHOW ME HOW EMPTY
LIFE IS WITHOUT
GOD !



OH,
LORD,
WHY
?

WHY
IS THIS
HAPPENING
TO US ?

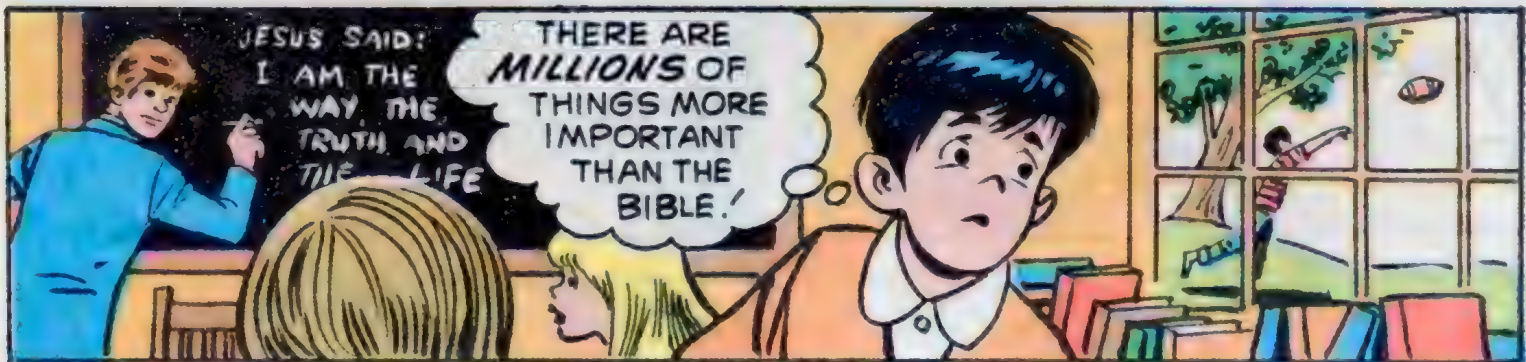
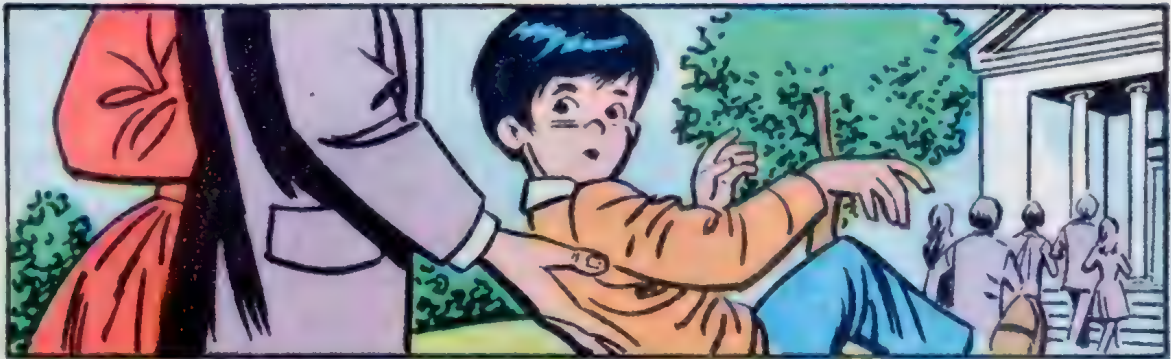
BOTH OF US GREW UP IN SOUTHERN BAPTIST HOMES. WE WERE IN CHURCH EVERY TIME THE DOORS OPENED.



BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED AFTER WE WERE MARRIED ---



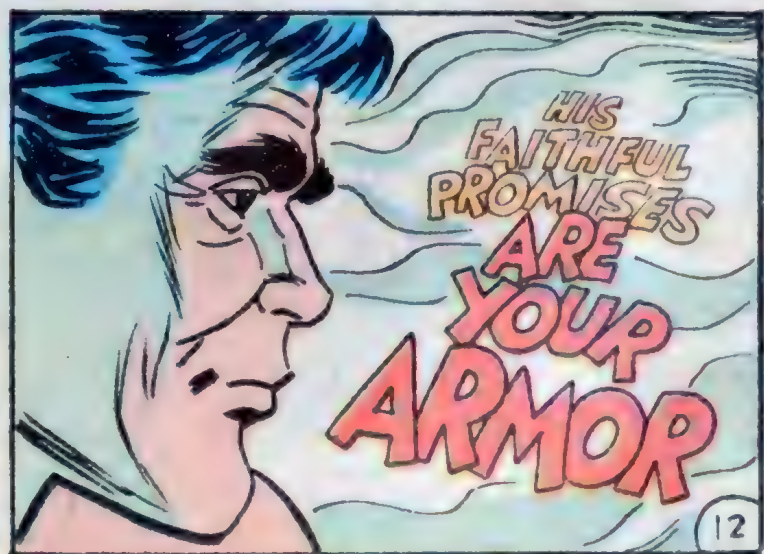
AS A BOY I WOULD HAVE STAYED HOME FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL, TOO, IF I HAD THE CHOICE! BUT I **HAD** TO GO!!!



BUT NOW, IN MY DARK CELL **NOTHING** WAS MORE IMPORTANT!



AND THE WORD OF GOD THAT SEEMED SO BORING YEARS AGO, CAME BACK TO ME IN ALL ITS POWER AND TRUTH!





OTHER PRISONERS WERE ALSO REDISCOVERING THEIR FAITH! TOGETHER WE REMEMBERED HUNDREDS OF BIBLE VERSES!



WE WERE DETERMINED TO RESIST OUR ENEMY AND TO OVERCOME THE POWER OF DEATH ALL AROUND US!



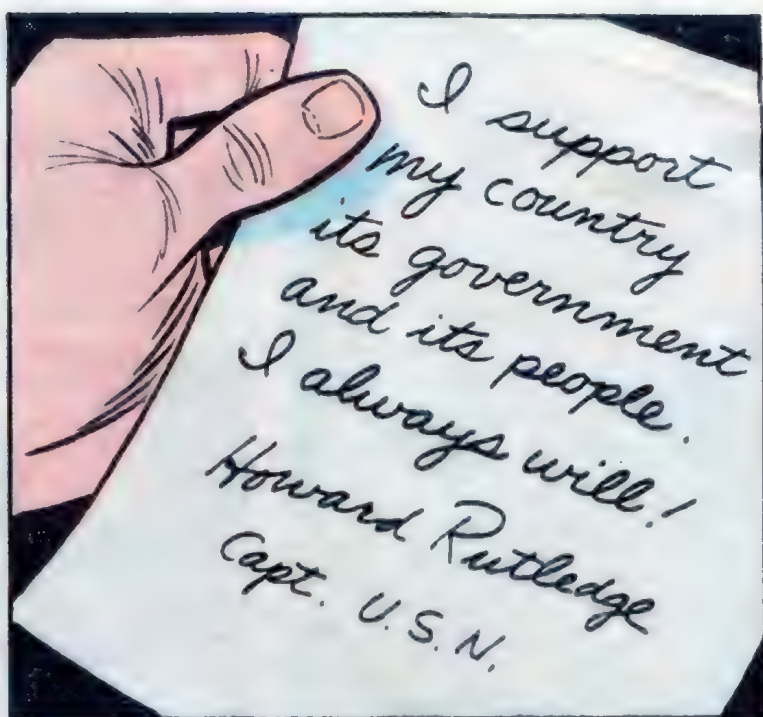
WE ENDED EVERY MESSAGE WITH: RWH SWD GBY!







THANK YOU, CAPTAIN!



I support
my country
and its government
I always will!
Howard Rutledge
Capt. U.S.N.



PIG!

WE'LL SEE
HOW LONG SUCH
ALLEGIANCE
CAN LAST!

TIE HIM
AGAIN!

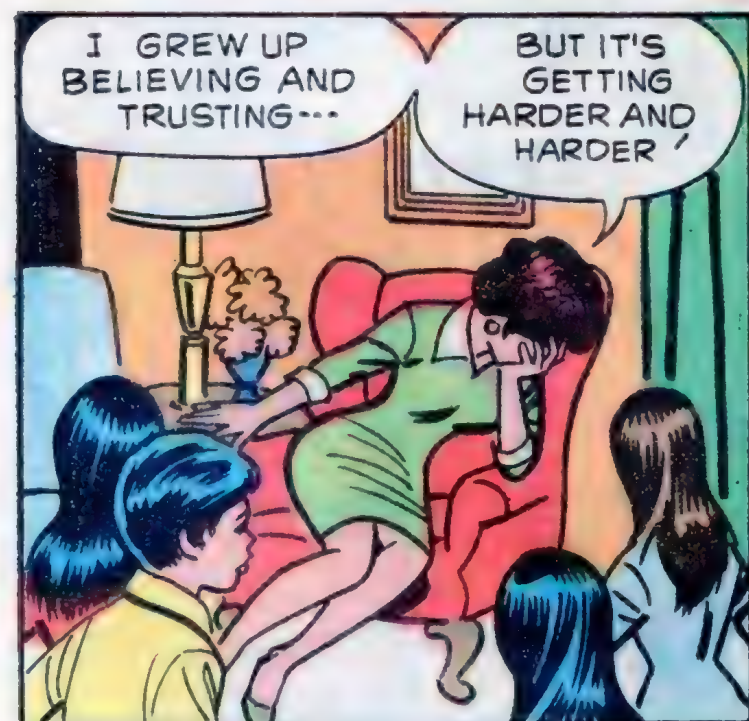


OH,
GOD,
PLEASE...

GIVE
ME
SOME
SIGN...

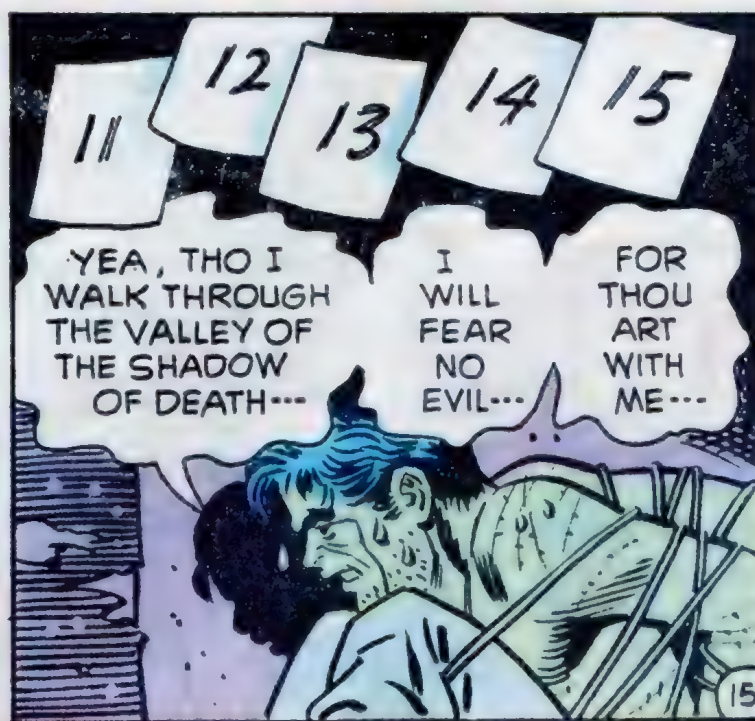
AM I
A WIFE
?

OR A
WIDOW
?



I GREW UP
BELIEVING AND
TRUSTING---

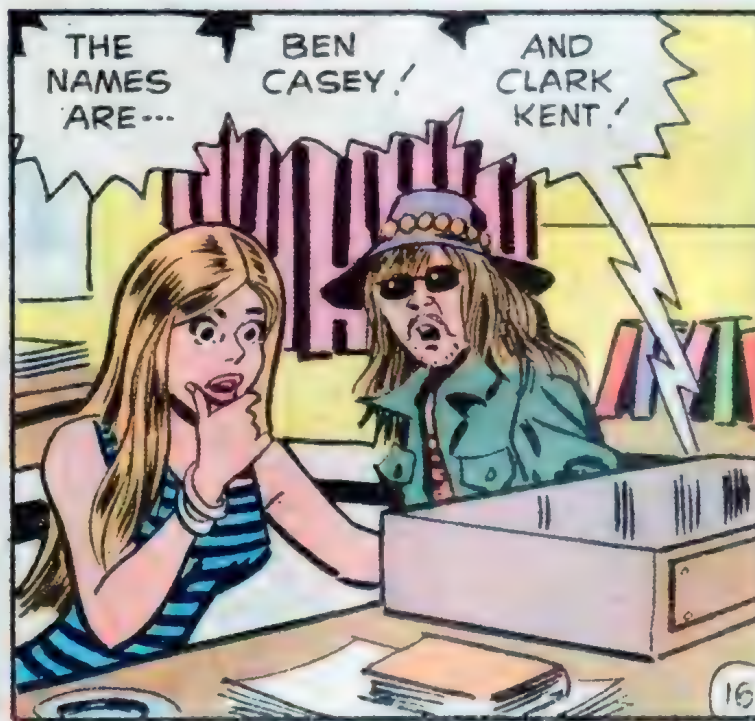
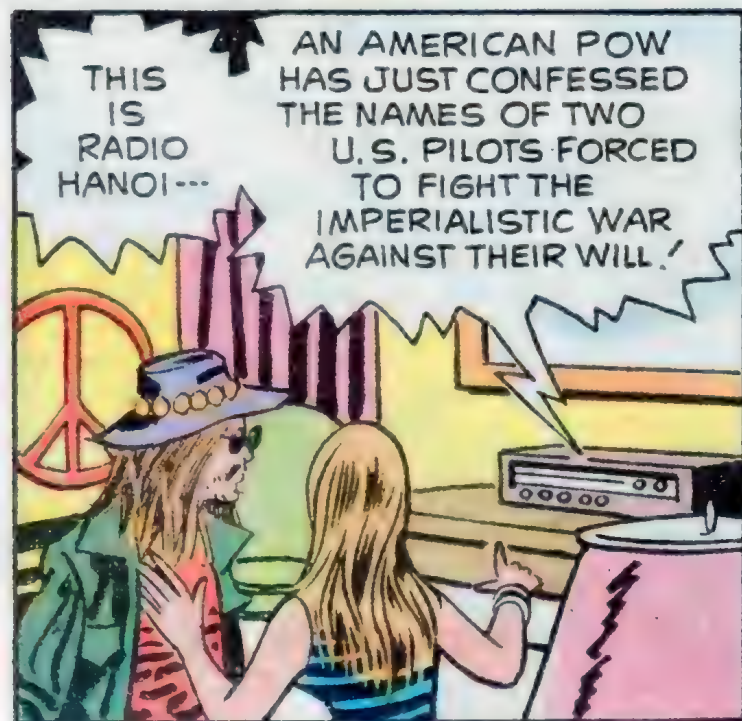
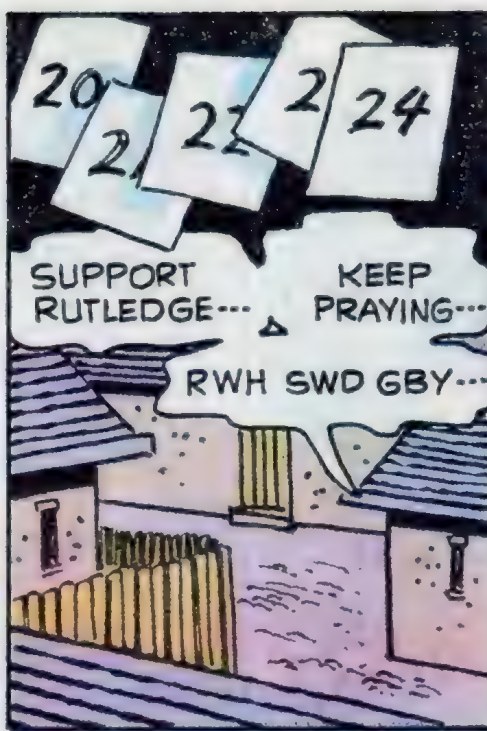
BUT IT'S
GETTING
HARDER AND
HARDER!



11 12 13 14 15
YEA, THO I
WALK THROUGH
THE VALLEY OF
THE SHADOW
OF DEATH---

I
WILL
FEAR
NO
EVIL---

FOR
THOU
ART
WITH
ME---

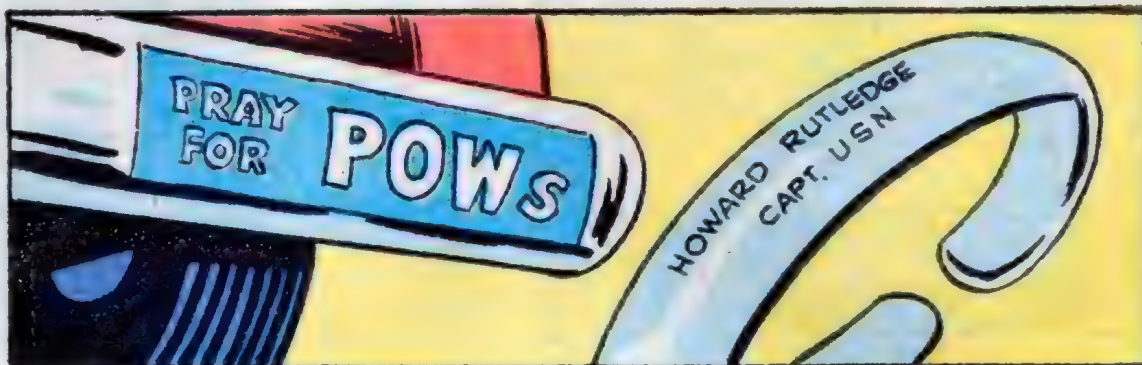


THE ENEMY
GOT MANY
"CONFESSIONS"
THAT BLEW UP
IN THEIR
FACES!
AND **MORE**
BOMBS WERE
COMING!!!



DEAR MRS. RUTLEDGE;
WE ARE FORMING AN
ORGANIZATION OF POW
WIVES, WE WANT TO
FORCE HANOI TO
RELEASE INFORMATION
ABOUT OUR HUSBANDS---

IN PRISON WE
KNEW NOTHING
OF THE BRACELETS
AND BUMPER-
STICKERS THAT
KEPT OUR PLIGHT
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC---



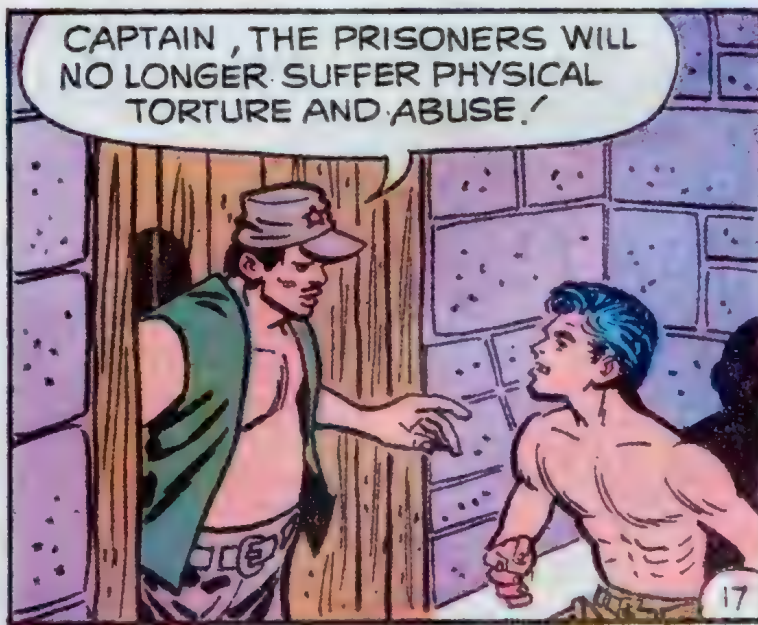
HANOI TOLD US A LOT ABOUT
ANTI-WAR ACTIVITY, BUT
NOTHING ABOUT THE MANY GROUPS
THAT WORKED SO HARD FOR US /

BUT HANOI FELT THE PRESSURE OF THE
POW AND MIA GROUPS!



AND LITTLE BY LITTLE WE NOTICED
CHANGES TAKING PLACE!

HANOI COULD READ THE HANDWRITING
ON THE WALL ---



I --- I HAVE CONFESSED
MY SIN TO THE PARTY
AND THE PEOPLE !



SO PIGEY
BECAME
A
SCAPEGOAT
FOR
COMMUNIST
INHUMANITY !
AFTER HIS
STRANGE
CONFESSION
WE NEVER
SAW HIM
AGAIN !

I HAD TO GET THE NEWS OUT
QUICKLY ' THE ENEMY WAS STILL
USING THE **THREAT** OF TORTURE
TO USE US FOR PROPAGANDA !

GREAT
NEWS !



IT'S NOT ALL
ANTI-WAR AT
HOME !
PEOPLE ARE
SUPPORTING
US !



OUR GOVERNMENT
IS KEEPING THE
PRESSURE ON !

WE'RE
WINNING !

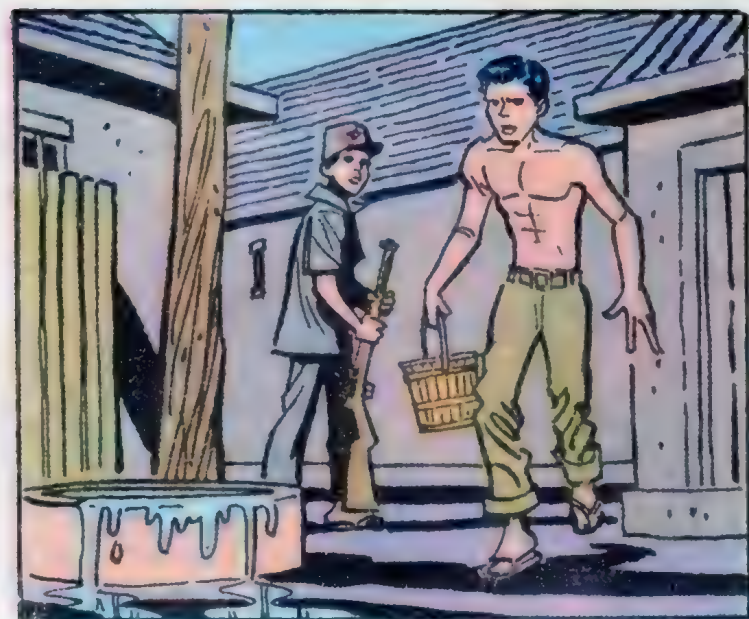
NO
MORE
TORTURE !

RWH SWD GBY !

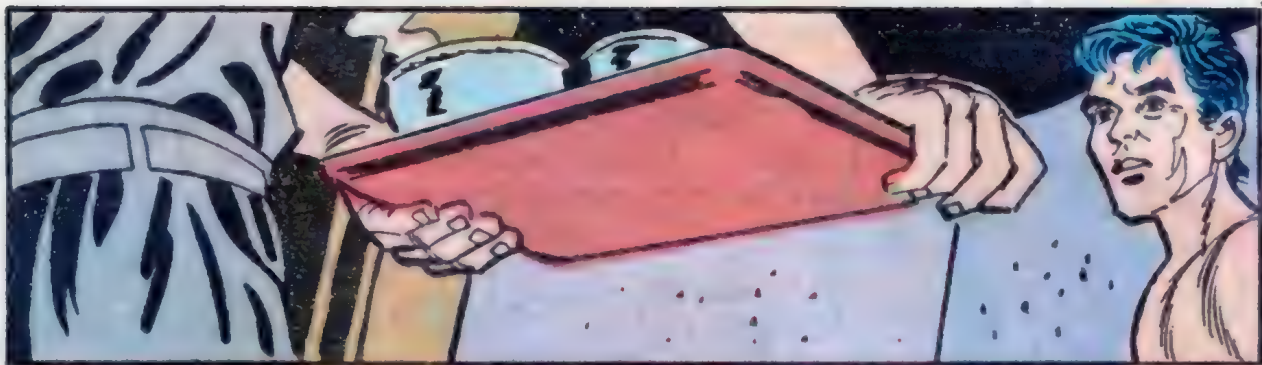


WE HAD ALL LOST CONSIDERABLE
WEIGHT ' EVERYONE SUFFERED
MALNUTRITION , DYSENTERY ---

SOME BODIES WERE SO RAVAGED ,
MEN PULLED WORMS FROM THEIR
THROATS !



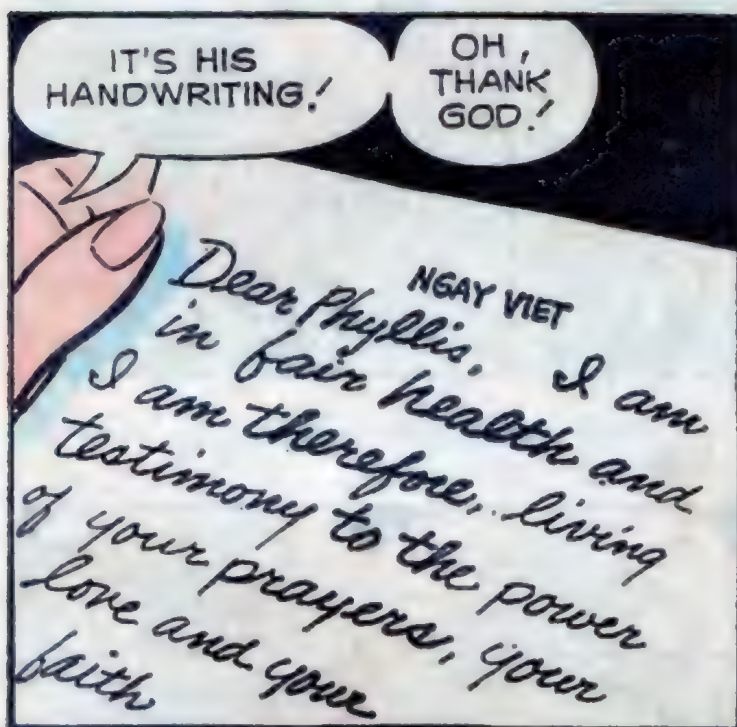
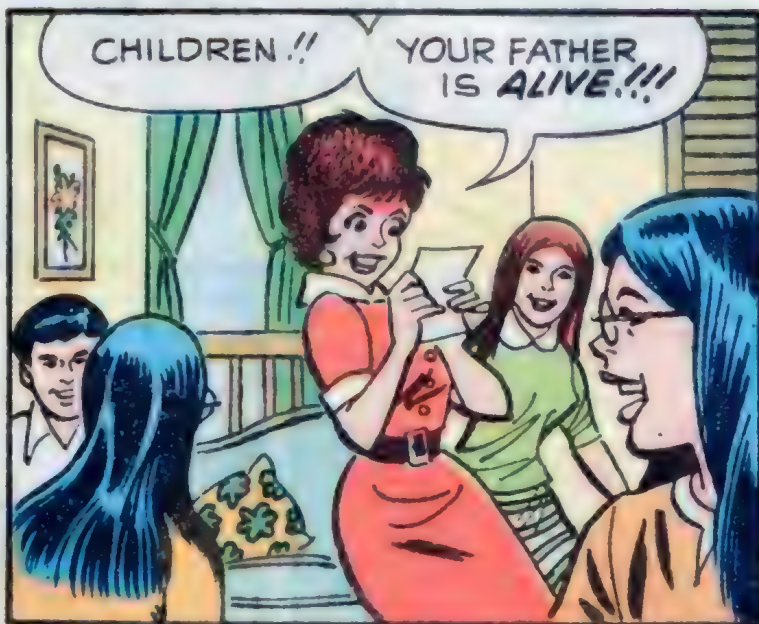
BUT
NOW WE
BEGAN TO
GET BETTER
FOOD-
AND MORE
OF IT!



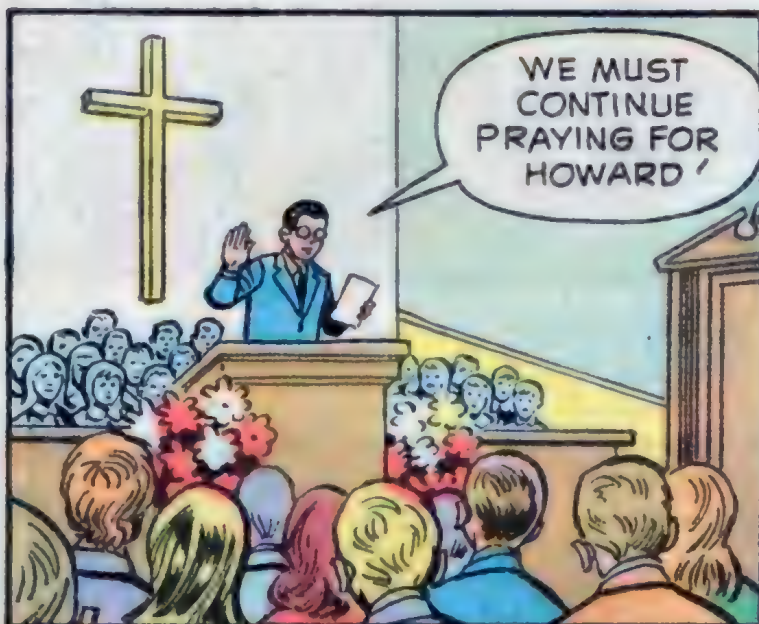
AND ON A VERY RARE OCCASION---



FINALLY, AFTER FIVE YEARS OF SILENCE---



PASTOR FOLEY READ MY LETTER FROM THE PULPIT---



I HAD BEEN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR 1,740 DAYS!

NOW I WAS TOGETHER WITH FIFTY OTHER AMERICANS!

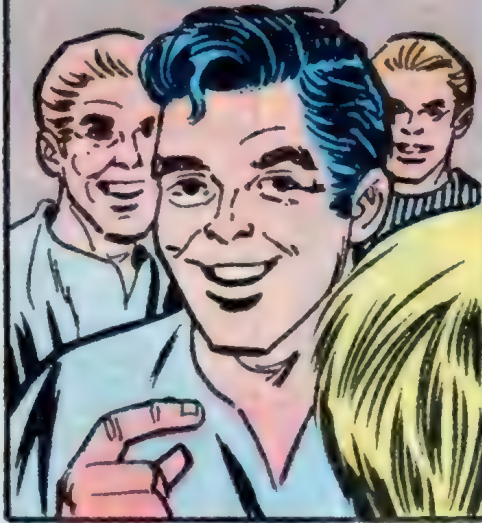
WHAT A CELEBRATION WE HAD!



I HAVEN'T USED MY VOICE IN OVER A YEAR!



I KNOW THE BEST WAY FOR ALL OF US TO USE OUR VOICES---



LET'S HAVE A WORSHIP SERVICE!



A REVERENT SILENCE FILLED THE ROOM AS WE ALL GOT ON OUR KNEES!

LT. COL. ROBERT RISNER PRAYED FOR US ---

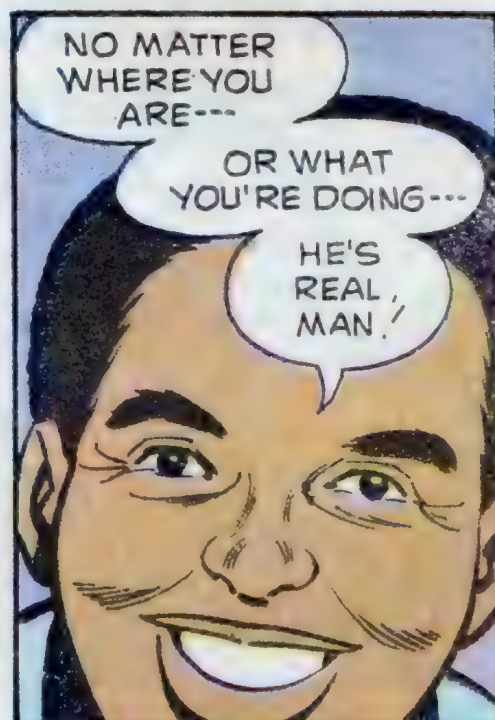


LORD, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING US THROUGH THE ROUGH DAYS---

AND FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER LIKE THIS---



AND THEN
MAJOR
NORMAN
MCDANIEL
PREACHED
THE
SERMON---





WE WERE
HERDED
INTO THE
COURTYARD!
MEMORIES
OF PAST
TORTURE
WERE VIVID
IN OUR
MINDS!



AS WE
AWAITED
OUR FATE,
SOMEONE
IN CELL-
BLOCK 7
BEGAN
TO SING
THE
STAR
SPANGLED
BANNER---



OTHERS JOINED IN ---

ALL OF CELL BLOCK 7 WAS ALIVE
WITH THE SONG ---

WHOSE BROAD STRIPES
AND BRIGHT STARS,
THROUGH THE
PERILOUS FIGHT---

CEASE!

AND THE ROCKETS RED GLARE,
THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR,
GAVE PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT
THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE ---

**NO
SING
!!!**

**STOP
!!!**

AND FINALLY, THE **ENTIRE** PRISON !!!
EVERY AMERICAN VOICE !!!

O, SAY DOES THAT
STAR SPANGLED BANNER
YET WAVE ---

O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE
AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE ?

THERE WAS
NO QUESTION
NOW! WE
WERE GOING
TO LEAVE HANOI
AS **MEN!**
STANDING TALL
AND STRAIGHT
NOT BROKEN
AND BENT!



WHEN THE PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED
IN PARIS I HAD A RELUCTANT
VISITOR---

YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED
THAT YOU GET A COPY OF THE
TERMS OF YOUR RELEASE!



AND
THEN---

NEW
CLOTHING!

WE'RE GOING
TO LEAVE AS
WE CAME
IN-- WITH
HONOR!

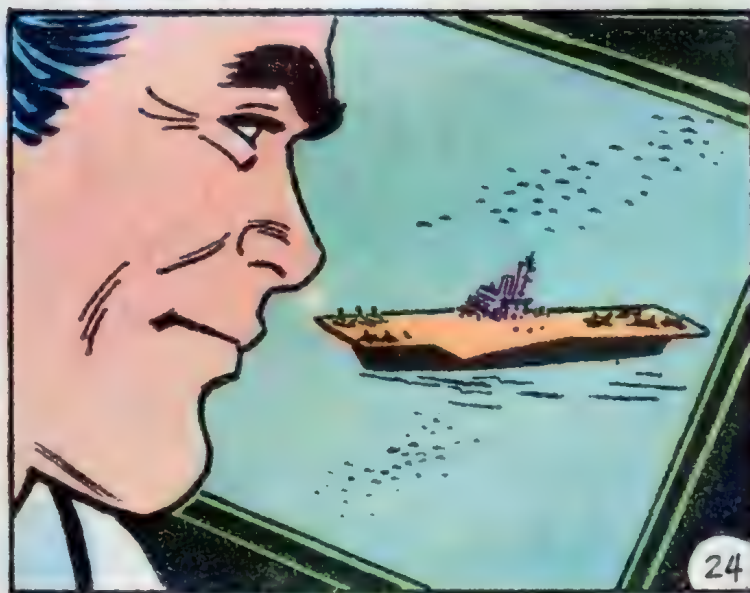
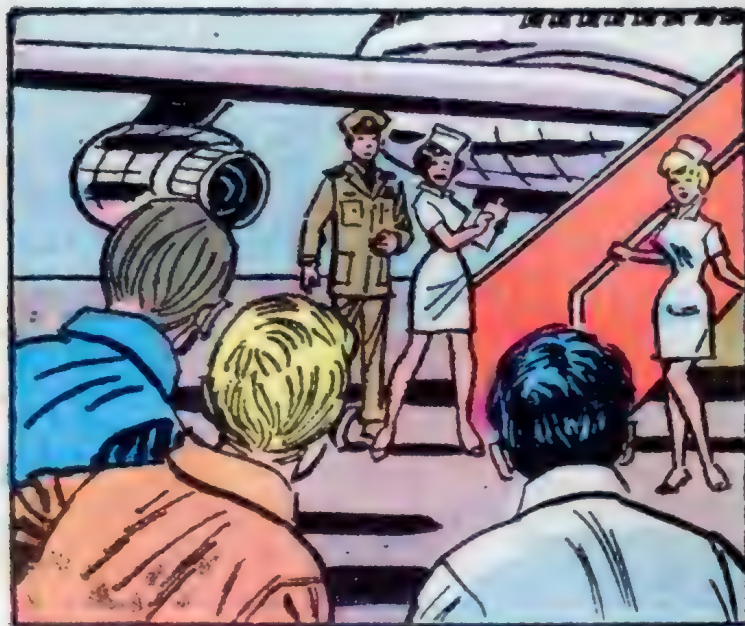


I FELT RESURRECTED
FROM THE DEAD AS
I LEFT OUR TOMB OF
SEVEN YEARS---

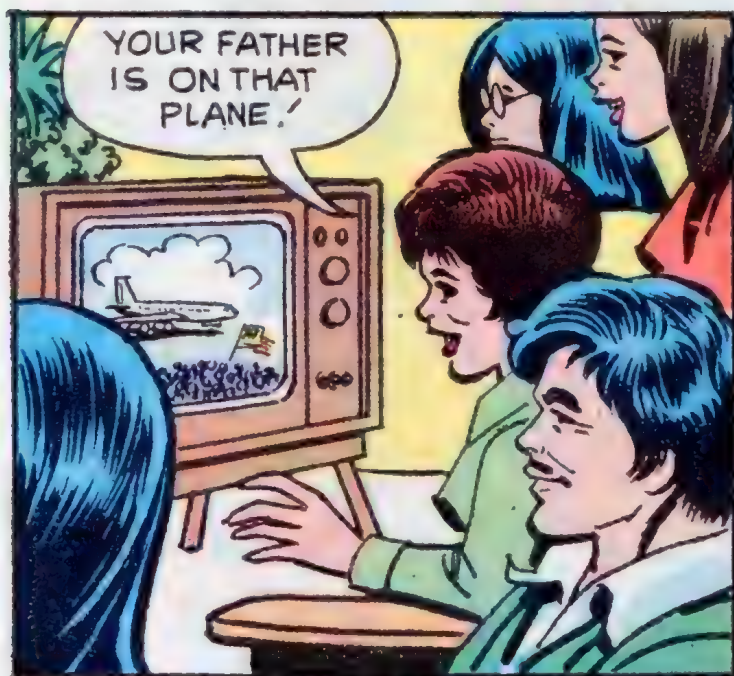


SEEING OTHER AMERICANS WAS
ALMOST TOO MUCH!

TEARS CAME TO OUR EYES AS WE SAW
ALL THE SUPPORT OUR COUNTRY HAD
GIVEN US!



FIRST STOP--- THE PHILIPPINES---



AND THEN--- FIRST THINGS FIRST---



AND THEN A CALL TO
PHYLLIS---



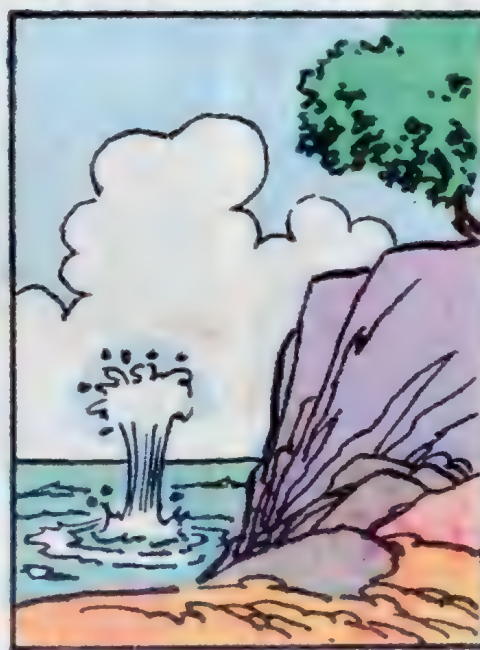
SHE TOLD ME OF OUR
SON'S ACCIDENT---



WE WERE AT THE
BEACH---



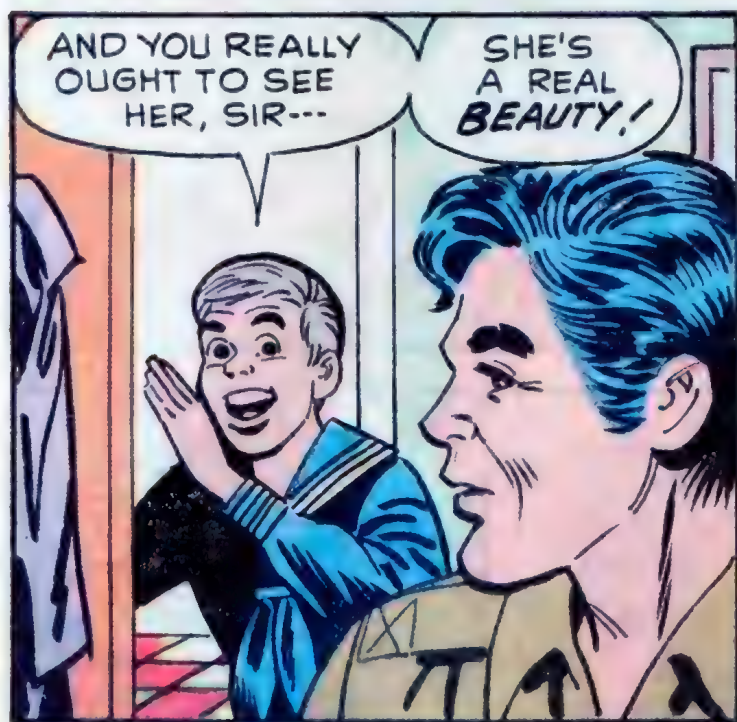
JOHN DOVE FROM THE
CLIFF---



AND HIT A SUBMERGED
ROCK---







I'M
VERY
GRATEFUL!

NOW THE FINAL FLIGHT
ACROSS THE PACIFIC---

I LEFT
AMERICA
A CHURCH
DROP-OUT!

I RETURN
TRANSFORMED
BY WHAT I'VE
SEEN GOD DO
IN PRISON!



I'VE LEARNED THE
IMPORTANT THINGS
IN LIFE!



I'LL
NEVER BE
WITHOUT
A BIBLE
AGAIN!



AND I'LL APPLY GOD'S
WORD IN MY FAMILY
LIFE---

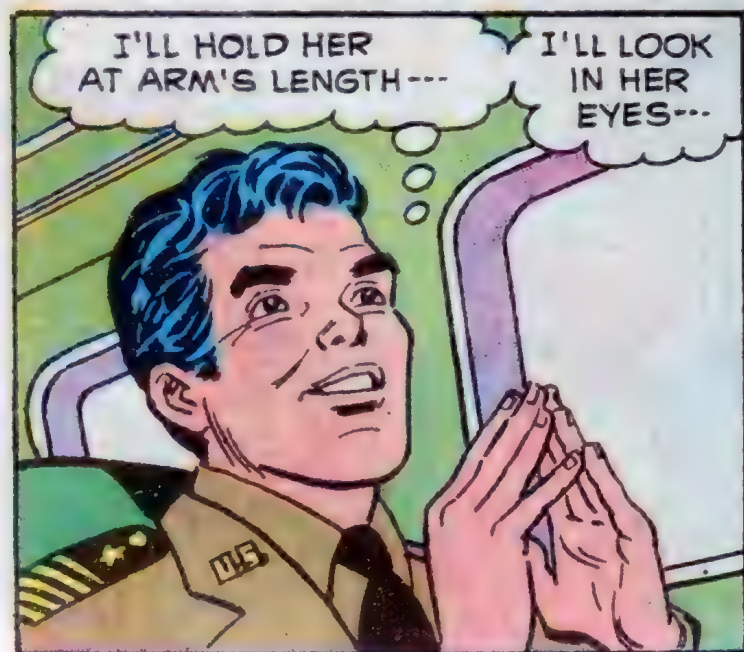
IN EVEN THE
SMALLEST
THINGS!



I THOUGHT OF MY REUNION WITH
PHYLLIS AFTER NEARLY 8 YEARS---

I'LL HOLD HER
AT ARM'S LENGTH---

I'LL LOOK
IN HER
EYES---



I'LL TELL
HER I LOVE
HER---

AND
THEN WE'LL
EMBRACE!



BUT PHYLLIS HAD A
BETTER IDEA!

ZOOM!

WHAT A
WELCOME!

HANOI TOLD US AMERICA WOULD
STAGE WILD DEMONSTRATIONS
WHEN WE RETURNED---

--- BUT HANOI
DIDN'T MEAN
THIS KIND!!!

**WELCOME
HOME**

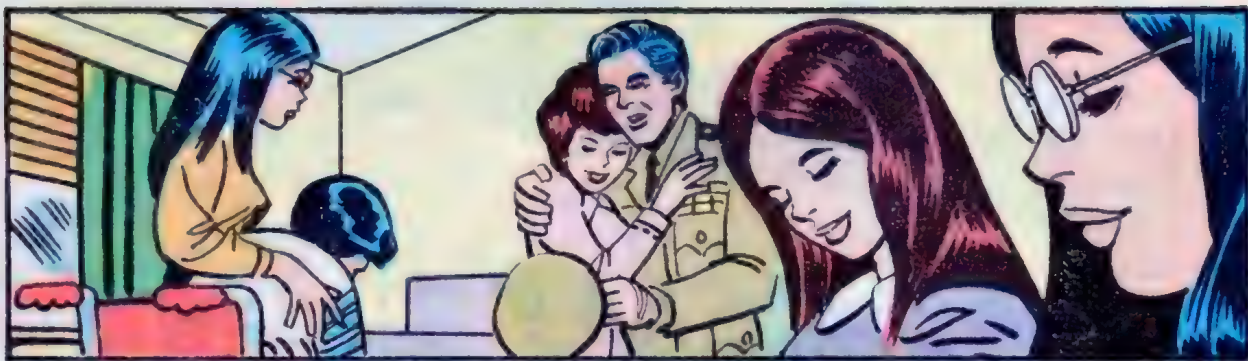
**GOD
BLESS
AMERICA!**

**YOU
KEPT
THE
FAITH**

**POWS
WELCOME**

**WELCOME
AMERICA**

THE
FIRST
THING
WE DID
AS A
FAMILY
WAS TO
THANK GOD
FOR HIS
MERCY!



STRANGE---

I ALWAYS
FELT PRAYER
WAS A SORT
OF RITUAL---

OR A
SIGN OF
WEAK-
NESS---



I KNOW
BETTER NOW!

I'VE LEARNED
THAT, TOO, DAD!



AND IT DOESN'T PAY TO GET HUNG-
UP ON THE THINGS YOU
CAN'T DO---



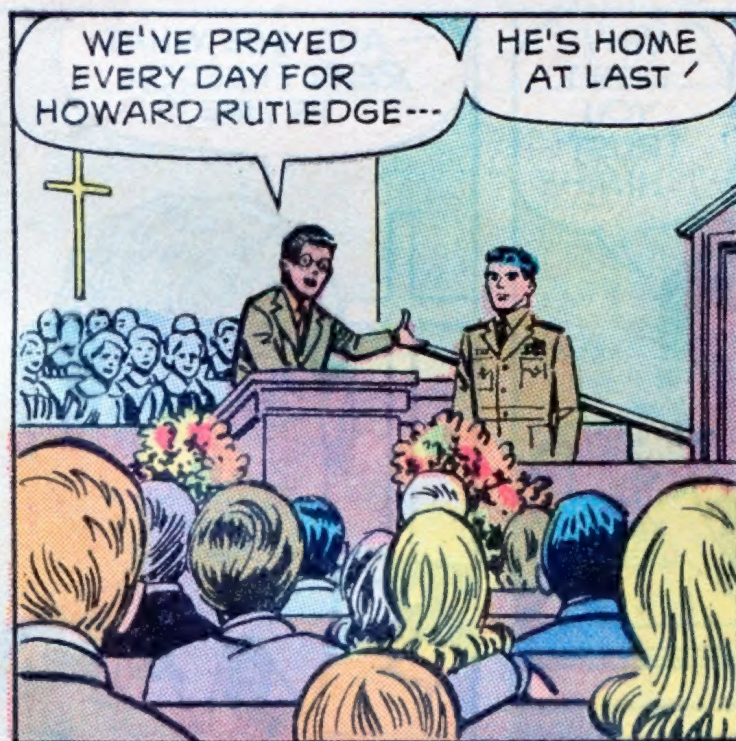
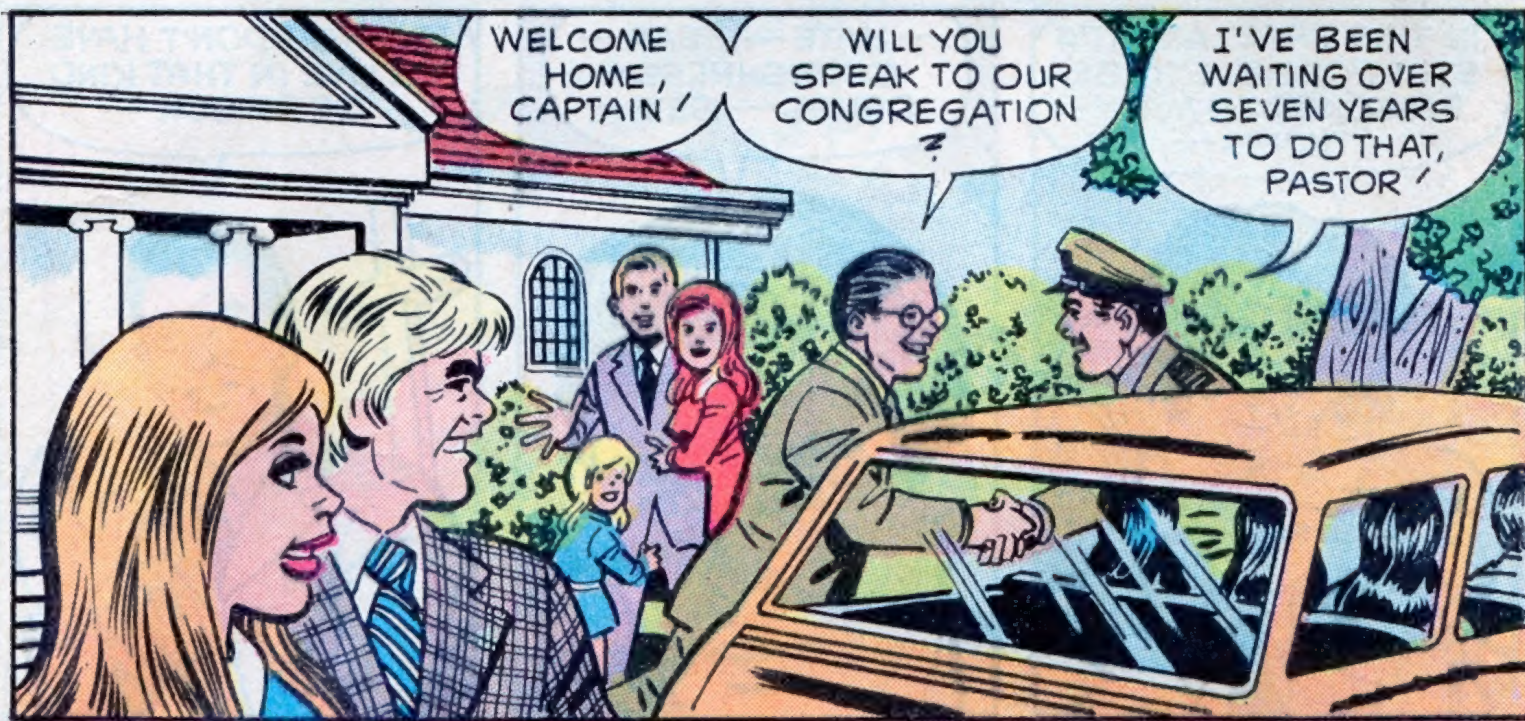
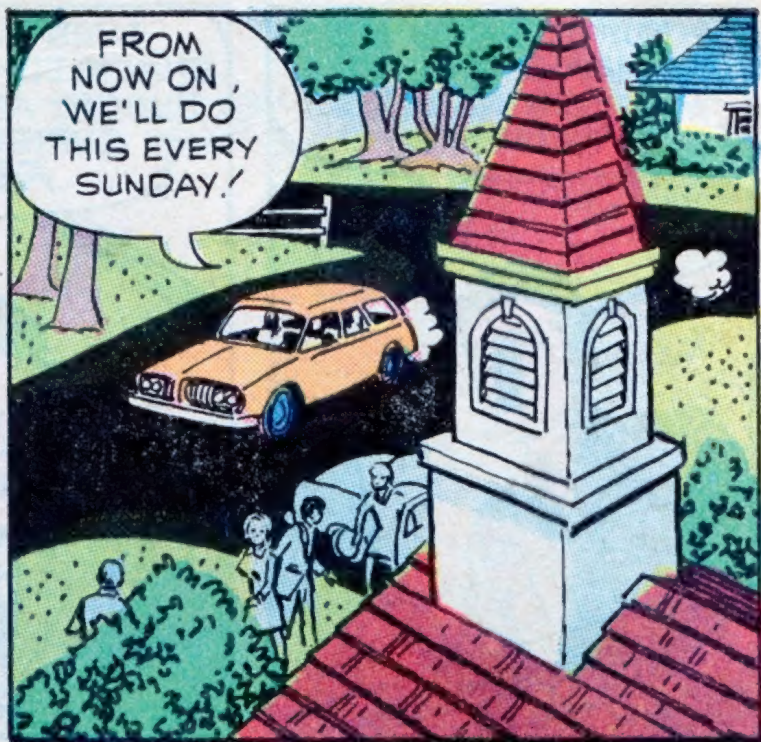
--- I'M GLAD
FOR THE THINGS
I *CAN* DO!



SON,
WE DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THE MYSTERY
OF
SUFFERING---

BUT WE KNOW
THAT GOD HAS
PROMISED NEVER
TO LEAVE US OR
FORSAKE US!







GREAT NEW FILM

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES



**From the despair of a
lonely cell in Vietnam . . .
. . . to the joy
of a family united!**

The moving personal story of
a former POW, Howard Rutledge and his wife,
Phyllis . . . the anguish of their
seven-year separation . . . the faith that
sustained them.



A Mel White Production

February 15, 1973, the entire nation watched Captain and Mrs. Rutledge run across that red carpet and into each other's arms. This picture was made to give God the glory for that reunion, and to share their discovery that faith in Christ really does make a difference.

16MM

Color

30 Minutes

\$25 Rental

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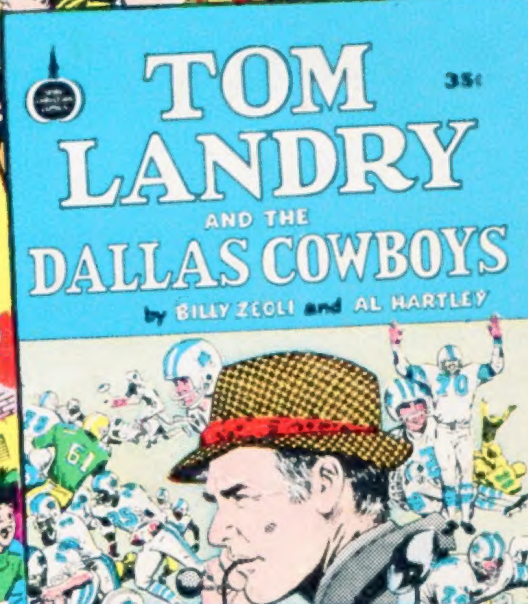
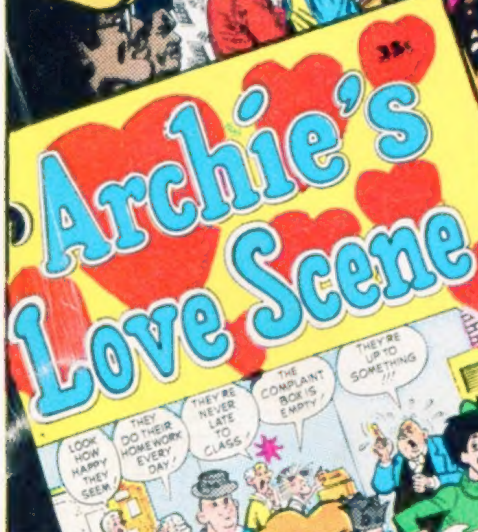
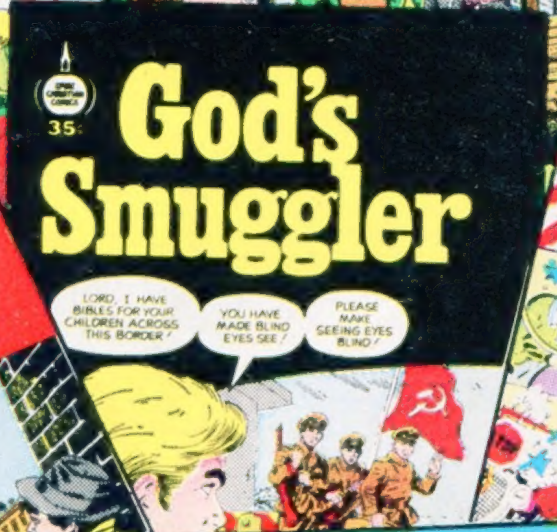
TOWARD THE MARK...
SPIRE CHRISTIAN COMICS
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